

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman :  
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations  
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:  
Kaname Tsukahara

**CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN**

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 89

September 15, 1956

## In These Pages

Lacour Teams Returns to USA..	1	Social Work Conference.....	4
Conference on Evangelism.....	1	Social Work Conference for	
Kriete Memorial Fund.....	2	Students.....	4
Okinawa Land Problem.....	2	Labor Sunday .....	4
World Sunday School Convention		Avaco Trains Movie Projector	
Notes.....	2	Operators.....	5
World Sunday School Convention		Delegation of Presbyterian	
Press Conference.....	3	Women Coming.....	5
Curriculum Reform.....	3	Youth for Christ Rally.....	5
International Work Camp in		United Church Statistics....	5
India.....	3	In Brief .....	5
Social Workers Conference			
in Okayama .....	3		

## LACOUR TEAM RETURNS TO USA

The Lacour Evangelistic Team, which has conducted two-months Centennial Evangelistic Campaigns in Japan for the past three summers, concluded its 1956 activities on September 4 with an all day conference at Aoyama Gakuin. Three hundred persons attended. The thirty-eight participants this year conducted services in twenty-five centers. Baptisms totaled 141 and inquirers 766. Three years ago the total membership of the churches served was about 300. Today it is 661. Four churches have become financially self-supporting during this period and some have purchased land preparatory to building sanctuaries.

## CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM

The fall conference of the Cooperative Evangelism Committee of the United Church will be held at Amagisansō, September 25-27. An attendance of about sixty is expected including committee members, secretaries, district chairman and missionaries. The subjects for discussion will be pioneer evangelism, future developments in evangelism, and the future role of the missionary.



### KRIETE MEMORIAL FUND

The Committee in charge of the Kriete Rehabilitation Fund, which has outstanding loans of about ¥1,600,000 to fifty-three needy persons, has received applications for a total of ¥400,000 for the current year. At a meeting on September 1st it decided to grant additional loans totaling ¥240,000 to nine applicants. Three of these are from the National Rehabilitation Institute, three from the Kōmeiryō (an institution for physically handicapped) and three from the Metropolitan Public Vocational Training Center. All grantees are physically disabled persons. An example of the type of persons aided is Mr. Sato (not his real name) 30, who graduated from the Vocational Training Center last year. Both legs are paralysed so he must walk on his hands. While at the school he learned to repair watches so he has set up a shop in his home. A ¥20,000 loan will provide fluid capital in order to get his business established. Mr. Sato is an earnest Christian and attends the Kokubunji church. The pastor is his sponsor for the loan. The loan is at 3% and matures in five years.

### OKINAWA LAND PROBLEM

The National Christian Council gave further consideration to the Okinawa Land Problem on September 5th when the Committee on International Relations and members of the General Affairs Department met with representatives of the Liberal Democratic and the Socialists parties. Mr. Yoshio Higa, a Christian, who was formerly in the Okinawa Government and now represents the Okinawans in Tokyo, was also present. The results of the conference will be reported to the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council. Subsequently an appeal will be issued to the churches in the United States and other countries. Present at the conference were secretaries Hirai and Tsukahara of the National Christian Council, the Reverend Keitaro Nishimura, chairman of the General Affairs Department, the Reverend Tsunetaro Miyakoda, chairman of the Public Relations Committee, and twenty others. A delegation to Okinawa for an on-the-spot investigation is being contemplated. It is hoped that an effective statement of the problem with adequate supporting evidence can be prepared for Dr. Earnest A. Gross, chairman of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches of Christ, U.S.A.

### WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION NOTES

Dr. Michio Kozaki, chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the 14th World Sunday School Convention to be held in Tokyo in 1958, has been elected a member of the Standing Committee of World Council of Christian Education at a meeting of the Directors on July 16-18 and appointed President of the "Convention Institute". He is the second Japanese to be elected to the Standing Committee. Dr. Tadaaki Yamamoto, former professor of Waseda University was the first.

Dr. Paul H. Vieth, well-known professor of Religious Education of Yale University, was elected the chaplain.



### WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION PRESS CONFERENCE

The preparatory committee for the World Sunday School held a press conference at the Marunouchi Hotel on September 5. Mr. Tokutaro Kitamura, a member of the House of Councillors and Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, requested the cooperation of the press in promoting the convention. Twenty representatives of press and wire services were present. Similar conferences were held in Kyoto and Osaka the following day.

### CURRICULUM REFORM

The Education Association of Christian Schools has objected to the proposed re-organization of the curriculum to increase the number of required subjects which is currently being discussed by the Education Deliberative Council. The reason for the Association's objection lies in the desire of Christian schools to provide elective courses for the study of the Bible and related subjects. Eleven primary and sixty junior high schools affiliated with the Association will be affected by the proposed curriculum re-organization.

### INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMP IN INDIA

M. Shōzō Hayashi a young Christian dentist in Yokohama is participating in an International Work Camp to be held in India September 15 to October 14. Fifteen Indians, fifteen from South-east Asian countries and five Europeans will participate. Mr. Hayashi will represent the Youth Department of the National Christian Council. He is a member of the Kugenuma Megumi Lutheran church. In addition to participating in local International Work Camps, Mr. Hayashi attended one in Okinawa last year.

### SOCIAL WORKERS CONFERENCE IN OKAYAMA

The Eighth General Meeting of the Christian Social Work Federation, which recently met at Okayama, was attended by sixty representative from many sections of the country. Social workers appear to be of the opinion that, although social welfare is primarily a government function, nevertheless, there is urgent need for the Christian contribution. But the conference came to no conclusion as to what the extent of this contribution should be. Considerable discussion was centered around an address on "Social Work and Money Making Enterprises." Since most institutions are in financial straits they are turning to such activities for a solution to their problems.



## SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

"The Church and the Community was the theme of a conference sponsored by the Social Work Department of the United Church of Christ in Japan at Amagisansō September 4-6. Present were representatives of the fourteen districts of the church, members of the Childhood Education Committee and officers of the Nursery School Association. Professor Eiichi Isomura of the Metropolitan University spoke on "The Church and Community Social Problems" and Dr. Hidenobu Kuwada of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary addressed the conference on "The Church and Community Understanding of Theology." Briefly summarized the conference decided:

1. To study the relationships between theology and social ethics from the standpoint of evangelical faith in the Bible.
2. To take a prophetic position in reference to social evils and injustice in order to promote social health and a just society.
3. To seek for the discontinuance of experiments with nuclear weapons, the preservation of the Constitution, a solution of the Okinawa Land Problem, and world peace from a Christian point of view.
4. To understand the community life in which the church operates and to discover ways in which the church can meet the needs of the community.
5. To re-examine the attitudes toward labor unions in order to bridge the gap between union members and the church.
6. To develop new plans for occupational evangelism.

## SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS

A conference on social welfare work was held at Tōzansō, Gotemba, under the joint auspices of Japan Church World Service and the Council of Cooperation of the United Church and Interboard Committee, September 4-6. Forty-three students of Doshisha, Aoyama Gakuin, Meiji Gakuin, Saint Paul's universities and Kobe Jogakuin attended. Discussion centered on the problems of present-day social welfare work and the future of scholarship students specializing in this field. Leaders of the conference included Mr. Kentaro Buma, Associate General Secretary of Japan Church World Service, Rev. Masaharu Tadokoro, secretary of the Council of Cooperation, Rev. Takeo Nakajima of the Bott Memorial Center, Professor Keiichiro Shimada of Doshisha University, Rev. Yoshio Sarai, Director of the Okayama Hakuai Kai, Assistant Professor Shiro Abe of Meiji Gakuin, the Reverend Junichi Asano of the Mitake Church, Miss Lois Kramer, Director of the Japan Deaf-Oral school, and Mr. Sadao Yamada of the YMCA.

## LABOR SUNDAY

In preparation for September 2nd "Labor Sunday" the Tokyo District of the United Church and the Committee on Industrial Evangelism sponsored a lecture at the Komatsugawa Community Hall on September 1st. Mr. Jotaro Kawakami, advisor of the Socialist Party, the Reverend Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan, spoke.

